

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

**Town Hall Meeting Room**

*This meeting was videotaped  
Videotape is available upon request*

Attendees: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectmen Dennis Tracey and David Muller, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Secretary Tami Campos, Director of Animal Control Mark Harper, WWL President Margaret Krauss, and approximately ten others.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**-Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Weinstein turned the meeting over to Director of Animal Control Mark Harper.

### **Discussion/Decision regarding the revised dog ordinance-Mark Harper:**

Mr. Harper, along with the Aspetuck Land Trust, would like to institute a new ordinance to impose consequences on those who do not abide by the leash laws in certain public spaces within Weston. These spaces will include Trout Brook hiking trails, Bisceglie Scribner Park, the entire school complex, Town Hall complex, Keene Park and the town recreational offices property. Mr. Harper cited many instances of compromised public safety due to unleashed dogs. Ms. Weinstein suggested that the law state that dogs must be on a leash any place where dogs are allowed except for the Fromson-Strassler Property.

Mr. Harper mentioned that due to the Lechat property's recent and ongoing restoration he would like to have a wildlife study conducted to explore whether it would be safe for dogs to run without leashes on that property or be allowed there at all. Mr. Tracey asked who would conduct the study to which Mr. Harper replied that he would contact someone from the State.

Mr. Harper wanted to reiterate that Weston is not an "anti-dog" town but there have to be rules for public safety. This is in-line with surrounding town's laws. The Board of Selectmen and the Director of Animal Control will work on specific language of the proposal. Currently, the fine for a dog off the leash is \$75 and \$50 for dog waste.

It was decided that this proposal would be put to a public hearing on May 7th at 7pm.

**Motion by Ms. Weinstein to add discussion regarding scheduling a public hearing about revisions to Chapter 79, Firearms, of the Weston Code:**

seconded by Dennis Tracey, all in favor. Ms. Weinstein requested a public hearing be scheduled to discuss a small technical change to the ordinance. David Muller motioned, Dennis Tracey seconded, all in favor of a public hearing on May 7th at 7:20pm.

**Discussion/decision to waive the \$310 permit fee for the Weston Women's League to operate a farmer's market within the Town of Weston-President WWL, Margaret Krauss:**

Mrs. Krauss stated that the Weston Women's League is a 501(c)3 charity and, as such, every dollar is vital to their beneficiaries. Mr. Tracey motioned to waive the fee; Mr. Muller seconded the motion; all in favor.

**Discussion/decision to permit Al's Angels charity to set up lemonade stands on Town of Weston Property-Holly:**

Goal is to raise \$40k for families of children with cancer and rare blood diseases. Al is the owner of Saugatuck Sweets in Westport. Will set up lemonade stands on June 6th (rain date is June 7th) at the Weston Library, Bisceglie Scriber Park and Morehouse Field from 8am-5pm. Mr. Muller motioned to permit this event; Mr. Tracey seconded; all in favor. Al's Angels would be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and insurance certificates.

**Discussion/decision to approve Weston historical Society grant request-Dallas Kersey:**

Weston Historical Society has requested a grant of \$2,500 from the Town of Weston for their Landmark Homes of Weston exhibit which will run through June 16th. Mr. Tracey motioned to approve request; Mr. Muller seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Discussion/decision to appoint Officer Joe Miceli as the Town of Weston's acting Emergency Management Director:**

Ms. Weinstein mentioned that she told the Police Chief and Officer Miceli that they need not be present. Ms. Weinstein stated what a great job Officer Miceli has done and she enjoys working with him. The current EMD is Sargent Ferullo but he is on-leave for Coast Guard duties. Mr. Muller motioned to approve appointment; Mr. Tracey seconded; all in favor; motion is carried.

**Discussion/decision to approve property tax refunds as stated in the BOS Agenda:**

Mr. Muller motioned to approve refunds in the amount of \$4,622.77.; Mr. Tracey seconded the motion; all in favor; motion is carried.

**Public Works Grievance:** Ms. Weinstein received a call from Lisa McKinney to remove this from the agenda as it is likely that it will be worked out internally. If this does not happen it will be put back on the agenda.

### **Open Items**

Meeting is turned over to Town Administrator, Tom Landry for open items. Mr. Landry stated that there has been progress on the Godfrey Road Bridge. The bridge will be prefabricated which should speed up the amount of time bridge/road will be closed. Should start in May or June but no timetable set yet. Town has applied for bridge grants. Easton has declined grant on shared bridge unless the entire bridge is replaced. Mr. Landry will follow up.

Ms. Weinstein praised Mr. Landry on his presentation to the MORE Commission in Hartford.

### **State Legislature Updates:**

#### **SB1-Car Taxes and Regional Tax Base**

Ms. Weinstein discussed that the SB1-car taxes and the regional tax base passed through the Planning and Development Committee to the Finance Committee. The First Selectman has testified against this initiative. It would only indirectly affect Weston due to our small commercial development but Ms. Weinstein feels that it is unbalanced.

#### **Labor Committee**

Approved increase in the prevailing wage threshold to \$2mm for new construction and renovation. Any public construction over \$400k and renovation over \$100k would be required to pay prevailing wages. Ms. Weinstein agrees with this and believes it is a positive move.

#### **Minimum Budget Requirements**

Due to many towns facing declining enrollment, this will provide more flexibility to reduce education budgets. Proposal is that rather than a \$3k per pupil deduction there will be 50% per pupil costs reduction as there are operational costs that do not go away with lower enrollment. Approved by Education Committee and has been sent to the House.

#### **NS4 Administrative Procedures Act**

Bill makes Tier 2 municipalities adopt in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Passed by the Environment Committee and is on to the House.

*Municipal Newspaper Postings*

Allows us to publish a brief summary in a newspaper and then send on to the Internet. Saves the Town of Weston money in that it limits how much we are required to publish. This has been approved by the Planning and Development and sent on to the House.

*Municipal Mandate Relief*

Eliminates the municipal health insurance premium tax. Approved by Planning and Development and sent to the House.

**Global Facilities Committee Update**

This committee met on Monday morning. Dr. Keating of the BOE had Joe Olenik, School Facilities Director, and HB Fishman, Construction Consultants, look at the BOE annex building. They are satisfied that the annex can last another eight to ten years. Dr. Palmer would really like to keep her administration together and the First Selectman agrees. There was also a discussion about putting all of the BOE in part of the Middle School.

The Selectmen agreed that a third party expert to consult on the project would be beneficial. Ms. Weinstein would like Juanita Forsythe, Civil Engineer and Alan, the Architect to review. Mr. Tracey would like an objective committee to review this process but Ms. Weinstein does not want another committee of layman involved. There was a brief discussion of partisanship with respect to who would oversee the process to which Ms. Weinstein replied that this was not the venue for the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tami Campos  
Secretary

Approved 5/7/15